

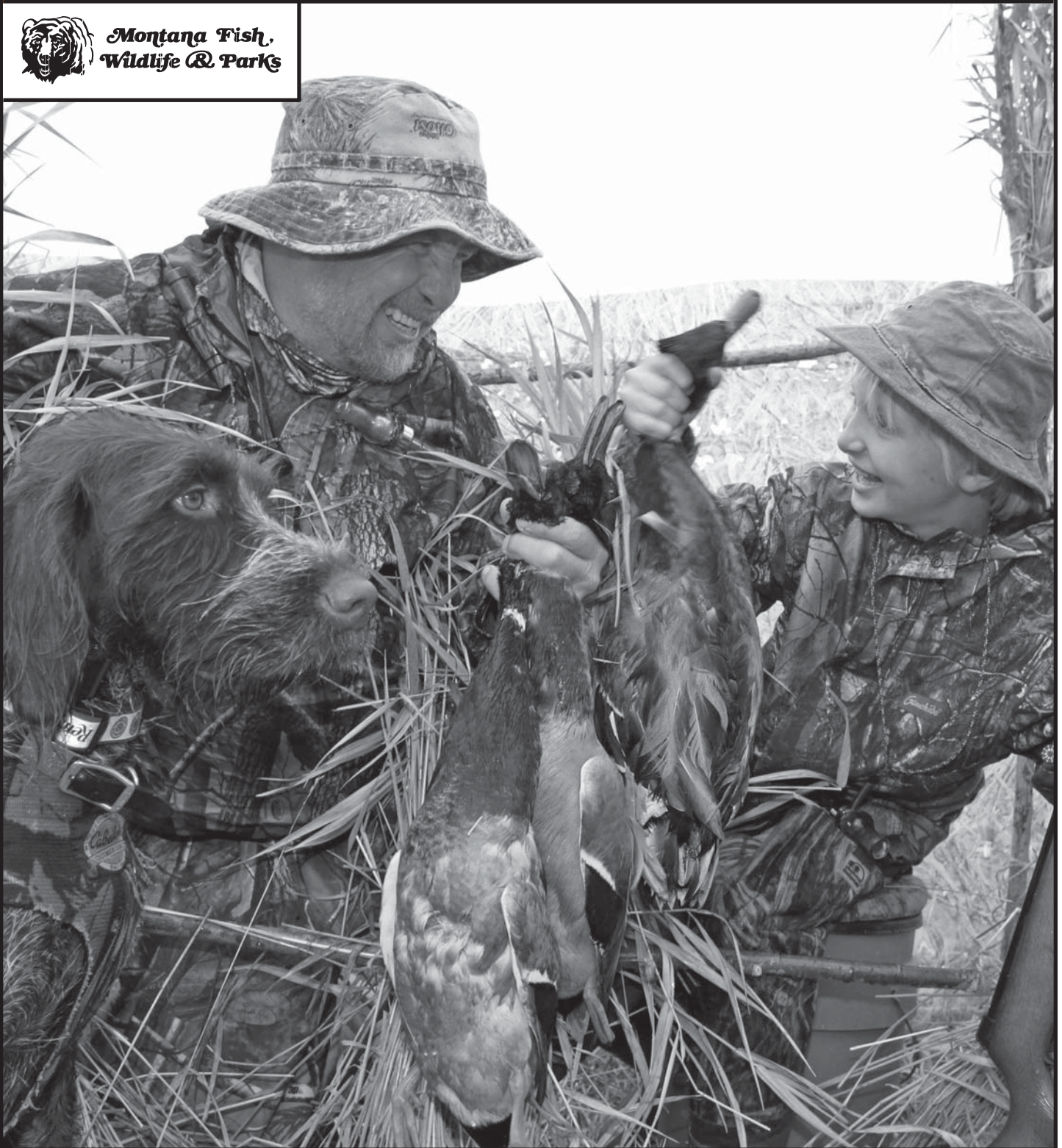
2015

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Montana Hunting Regulations



*Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks*



Waterfowl hunters with mallards. Photo by Denver Bryan

Apply for General Licenses and Special Licenses Online: fwp.mt.gov

Regulations Adopted by F&W Commission

These regulations and final quotas were adopted under the authority granted to the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission (F&W Commission) per MCA, Section 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2015, through February 29, 2016. Final regulations were adopted by the F&W Commission on August 25, 2015. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

License Requirements

The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers throughout the state, and online at <http://fwp.mt.gov> or <http://mt.gov>. Exception: The Federal Migratory Bird Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) is available from the US Post Office as well as all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices. The license is valid March 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016. The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a Federal Duck Stamp that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp.

To learn about Montana's Migratory Bird Wetland Program and how your state "duck stamp" dollars are spent, go to:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/wildlife/programs/migratoryBirds>

What's New and Reminders

What's New

- **Apprentice Hunter** – A law enacted by the 2015 Montana Legislature allows apprentice hunters, 10-17 years of age, to obtain a certification to participate in several Montana hunting seasons. Apprentice hunters must be accompanied by an adult mentor at least 21 years of age and follow other rules. For more information go to:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/apprenticeHunter>

Reminders

- Be aware of split seasons and carefully note closed and open days for hunting and note zone differences.
- The Central Flyway has different season dates in different zones for different species groups. Zone 2 for ducks and coots consists of 5 counties: Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, and Prairie. Zone S (= south) for geese includes those 5 counties plus Yellowstone and Carbon Counties. Zone N (= north) for geese is the remainder of the Central Flyway which includes Blaine, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland & Wibaux counties.

Montana Migratory Bird Licensing Requirements						
Waterfowl - (Duck, Geese, Swans)						Webless Migratory Game Birds (Doves, Cranes, Coot & Common Snipe)
Resident and Nonresident	Age	MT Migratory Bird License Required	Federal Migratory Stamp Required Resident and Nonresident: \$25	Conservation License Required Resident: \$8 Nonresident: \$10	Hunting Access Enhancement Fee Resident: \$2 Nonresident: \$10	
Resident	10 to 15	No	No	Yes	No	Conservation Only
Resident	16 to 61	Yes** \$6.50	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License
Resident	62+ or FWP Certified Disabled	No	Yes	Yes	No	Conservation Only
Nonresident	10 to 15	Yes \$35.00 - must be purchased with an Upland Game Bird License	No	Yes	Yes	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License
Nonresident	16+	Yes \$50.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License

** A valid "Resident of the Flathead Reservation Use Permit" with a valid Flathead Reservation Bird Stamp will be honored by the state wherever hunting for upland or migratory game birds is lawful in Montana.

Licensing – Hunter Education Requirements

If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course (or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province) prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Licensing – Youth Hunting Opportunities

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt September 26-27, 2015 – Youth 10 to 15 years old may participate in a special two-day early hunt for waterfowl during Sept 26-27. A youth 10-15 participating as an Apprentice Hunter must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult mentor at least 21 years of age. Otherwise, youth 12-15 who are Hunter Education Certified must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult at least 18 years of age.

Swan Drawing Process

Hunters may apply for a swan permit –

- online at <http://fwp.mt.gov> no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT on September 3, OR
- over-the-counter at any FWP regional office, FWP area office, and/or the Helena Headquarters, OR
- by mail. Mailed applications must include the \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee and must be received by FWP Helena Headquarters no later than 5 p.m. MDT September 3. Applications are available at all FWP regional and area offices or may be downloaded from the FWP website at <http://fwp.mt.gov>.
- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license to apply.
- Successful applicants will be required to purchase a Montana Migratory Bird license if necessary as specified in these regulations.

General Regulations

- It is unlawful to interfere with or hinder the lawful taking of a migratory game bird.
- A hunter may purchase only one migratory bird license per year.
- Both resident and nonresident migratory game bird hunters must carry on their person the required license(s).
- Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (MBHIP) – All migratory bird hunters in Montana, as well as in all other states, are required to take part in a National Harvest Survey Program, termed the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (MBHIP).

Method of Taking – Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than ten gauge incapable of holding more than three shells and fired from the shoulder.

You can hunt migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on, over or from:

- standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatic plants.
- standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation.
- flooded harvested croplands.
- lands or areas where grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural harvesting or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation.
- lands or areas where top-soil seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, or a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed. You should be aware that seeds or grains from such vegetation could create a baited area.
- standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grains will create a baited area.

It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:

- on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, or borrow pit right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, per MCA 61-1-202) in the state of Montana; or
- by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait per Montana law. Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

Baiting – Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 and 20.21(i). You cannot hunt waterfowl or any other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

The 10-Day Rule: A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.

Check Stations – All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Hunting Hours – One-half hour before sunrise to sunset. See official sunrise-sunset tables in these regulations.

Duck Identification – Most FWP Regional Offices have free waterfowl ID guides. A duck identification guide can be found at the website:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/waterfowl/duck_id_guide.pdf

Whooping Cranes – Whooping cranes are protected by law. It is illegal to take or attempt to take this bird. If a whooping crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612. For more information on distinguishing sandhill cranes and waterfowl from the protected, endangered whooping crane, you may go to the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/SandhillCranes/SandhillCraneHunters.htm>.

General Information

Accidental Dog Captures – To improve understanding of accidental dog captures in traps or snares, hunters should report such captures to the nearest FWP regional office within 48 hours. A Recreationist Guide to Releasing Traps and Snares is available on the FWP website.

Reporting Banded Birds – Internet reporting of bird bands is encouraged and may be easily done by going to: <http://www.reportband.gov>. In most cases you will quickly receive information on when and where a bird was banded. You may also continue to report bands by way of the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-327-BAND (1-800-327-2263).

Flyways.us – This website has the waterfowl status report and much more information. Go to <http://www.flyways.us>

Possession Limit while in the Field – No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

Possession Limit – The number of birds that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

Hunter Access

National Wildlife Refuges – More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact: Special Agent-in-Charge, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225, telephone 303-236-4306 or visit: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges>

Private Land Access – Montana law requires permission for hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property. Landowners may grant permission face-to-face, over the phone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain the type of hunting allowed—game species or sex—and under what conditions. Visit FWP's website for the Interactive Hunt Planner or visit nris.mt.gov/gis for assistance with land ownership.

Public Land

- National Parks are closed to hunting.
- National Wildlife Refuge lands are closed except those areas designated open to public hunting. For hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or Federal Waterfowl Production Areas, inquire at the local refuge office.
- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local Federal office.
- Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

Railroad Access – Railroads and railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad. Consult the individual railroad for details.

State School Trust Lands – A \$2 fee paid when you purchase your conservation license provides hunters and anglers legal access to State School Trust Lands. Information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) which provide big game winter range are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later to noon on May 15 each year, as posted.

- **Exception:** Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10. From November 11 through the remainder of hunting season that portion of Cottonwood Creek lying downstream from the bridge (at WMA headquarters) including the ditch and pond (DU pond) that are connected to the creek will remain open to hunting for ducks and geese only, as posted.
- **Exception:** Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.
- Canyon Ferry WMA designated access gates for Ponds 2, 3 and 4 will be opened at Noon the day prior to the opening of the Youth and General Waterfowl Seasons.

Stream Access – Migratory game bird hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is legal. However, landowner permission must be obtained to hunt or retrieve on private lands adjacent to waterways.

Tribal Land – Hunters hunting migratory birds on Indian Reservations should check Indian Reservation regulations. State regulations apply to deeded land and the Bighorn River within the Crow Indian Reservation. The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call FWP at 406-752-5501 or the Tribes at 406-883-2888 ext 7200.

Unlawful Hunting Methods

No persons shall take migratory game birds –

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

Non-Toxic Shot – No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shot shells or as loose shot for muzzle loading) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/nontoxic.htm>

Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting Migratory Birds

Species Identification Requirement – No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

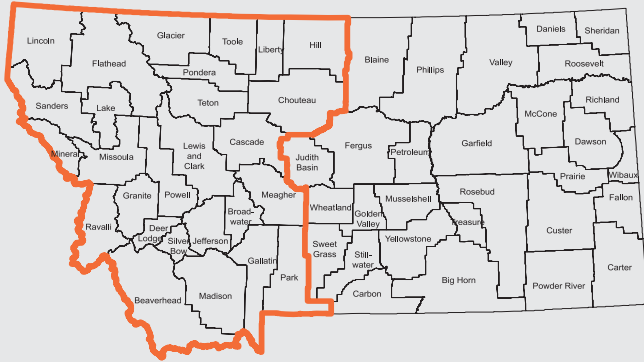
Wanton Waste – No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his/her actual custody. **Note:** State regulations are more restrictive, making it illegal to waste any part of a game bird suitable for food, which includes the breasts of birds the size of a teal duck or smaller and the breasts and thighs of all birds larger than a teal duck.

Tagging – No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Custody of birds of another – No person shall receive migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Pacific Flyway

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.



Ducks (Including Mergansers)

Bag limit: Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback and 3 scaup. Scaup season closes Dec 27. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Open Season:

- Sept 26 - Sept 27 – Only youth ages 15 and under.
- Oct 3 - Dec 27 – Standard bag limit. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Dec 28 - Jan 10 – Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Jan 16 - Jan 20 – Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Coots

Bag Limit: 25 daily and in possession.

Open Season:

- Sept 26 - Sept 27 – Only youth ages 15 and under.
- Oct 3 - Jan 10 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Jan 16 - Jan 20 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Geese

Daily limit: 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) and 4 dark geese (all other geese).

The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Open Season:

- Sept 26 - Sept 27 – Only youth ages 15 and under.
- Oct 3 - Jan 10 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Jan 16 - Jan 20 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Common (Wilson's) Snipe

Bag limit: 8 daily and 24 in possession.

Open Season:

- Sept 1 - Dec 16

Sandhill Cranes

All Sandhill Crane hunting in the Pacific Flyway is only by special permit. Consult local FWP office or view the Webless Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations online at fwp.mt.gov for permit information.

Swan

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera Counties by special swan permit only. See Exception 1, Pacific Flyway (Swan). The remainder of the Pacific Flyway within Montana is closed to swan hunting.

Hunting only by special permit. Apply by September 3. Must apply in only one flyway.

Bag limit: 1 swan.

481-20: 500 permits. Swan hunters must have, as a means of retrieving swans, a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving or chest-high waders along while hunting the dikes at Freezout.

- Oct 10 - Dec 1
- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than September 3, 2015. All applications must be received by September 3, 2015. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.

72-Hour reporting requirement - Federal regulations require that hunters shooting a swan in the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana must complete and return a Swan Bill Measurement Card within 72 hours of harvesting a swan. Bill measurement cards may be returned to Montana FWP by: 1) deposit in regular US mail, or 2) by deposit in Swan Bill Measurement Card Deposit Boxes situated in numerous locations at Freezout WMA, or 3) by submitting card to any FWP office.

Pacific Flyway – Falconry

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season.

Ducks (including Mergansers) and Coots

Open Season:

- Oct 3 - Jan 10
- Jan 16 - Jan 20

Geese

Open Season:

- Oct 3 - Jan 10
- Jan 16 - Jan 20

Exceptions – Pacific Flyway

Swans

- Exception 1: Closed to hunting of all swans: those portions of Teton and Pondera counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

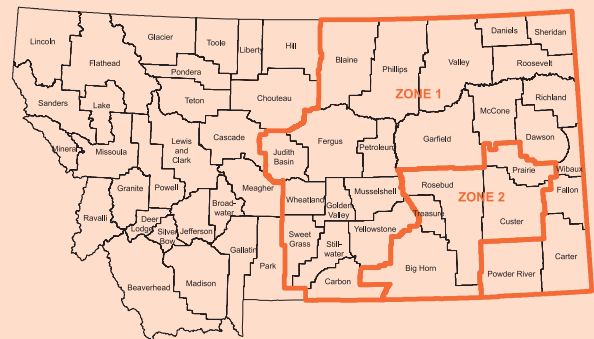
Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, Coots

- Exception 1, Canyon Ferry: October 3-9, 2015, and the special two-day youth waterfowl season September 26-27, 2015. Hunting hours for all ducks, geese, mergansers and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to noon daily; thereafter, October 10, 2015 until close of the season, regular hunting hours apply. See legal description below.
- Those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to US Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the SW corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 12 at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

Central Flyway

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Judith Basin, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Wheatland counties and all counties lying east of these.

NOTE: Goose zones differ. See "Geese" on the next page.



Zone 1 (ducks and coots): Includes Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux & Yellowstone counties.

Zone 2 (ducks and coots): Includes Big Horn County (where the Bighorn River is the county line between Yellowstone and Treasure counties), the Zone 1 and 2 boundary shall be northerly along State Hwy 47 to its junction with then north along the section lines on the east side of Sections 30 and 31 to the Yellowstone River, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud and Treasure counties.

Special Two-Day Youth Waterfowl Season

September 26-27, 2015 – Statewide

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing two additional days to provide a special hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in waterfowling. Legally licensed hunters age 10 through 15 may hunt ducks, mergansers, geese and coots statewide on these days. The bag limit, shooting hours, and all other regulations that apply to the regular waterfowl season shall apply to this special season.

Exception: Canyon Ferry WMA: Shooting hours will be one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 12 noon September 26 and 27.

Ducks (Including Mergansers)

Bag limit: The daily bag limit is 6 ducks or mergansers. The daily bag limit may contain no more than 5 mallards of which no more than 2 may be hens, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 pintails, 2 canvasbacks and 3 scaup. During the first 9 days of the regular duck season in both Zones (Oct. 3 – 11), the daily bag may include 2 additional blue-winged teal.

The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Open Season:

- Sept 26 – Sept 27 – Only youth ages 15 and under.

Zone 1 (see map)

Oct 3 – Jan 7

Zone 2 (see map)

Oct 3 – Oct 11

Oct 24 – Jan 19

Geese

Bag Limit: 15 daily. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Open Season:

- Sept 26 – Sept 27 – Only youth ages 15 and under.

Zone 1 (see map)

Oct 3 – Jan 7

Zone 2 (see map)

Oct 3 – Oct 11

Oct 24 – Jan 19

Geese

Daily limit: 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) and 5 dark geese (all other geese).

The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Open Season:

Zone S (south) for geese: Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer and Prairie Counties

- Sept 26 – Sept 27 – Only youth ages 15 and under.
- Oct 3 – Oct 11
- Oct 24 – Jan 27

Zone N (north) for geese: Central Flyway counties other than those in Zone S for geese

- Sept 26 – Sept 27 – Only youth ages 15 and under.
- Oct 3 – Jan 10
- Jan 16 – Jan 20

Common (Wilson's) Snipe

Bag limit: 8 daily and 24 in possession.

Open Season:

- Sept 1 – Dec 16

Sandhill Cranes - Over-the-Counter Permit

Persons wishing to hunt Sandhill Cranes in the Central Flyway must obtain a free permit available from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City; or the Fish, Wildlife & Parks office in Helena.

Exception 1: That area south and west of I-90 is closed to the hunting of Sandhill Cranes.

Exception 2: Hunting by special permit only in Wheatland, Meagher and Golden Valley counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90.

Bag limit: 3 daily and 9 in possession.

Open Season:

- Oct 3 – Nov 29

Sandhill Cranes - Special Drawing Permit

All Sandhill Crane hunting in Wheatland, Meagher and Golden Valley counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 is only by special permit. Consult local FWP office or view the Webless Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations online at fwp.mt.gov for permit information.

Tundra Swan

Hunting only by special permit. Apply by Sept 3. Must apply in only one flyway.

Bag limit: 1 Tundra swan.

684-20: 500 permits.

Open Season:

- Oct 3 – Jan 7

- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than September 3, 2015. All applications must be received by September 3, 2015. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.
- Surplus Central Flyway swan special permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis after September 20, either online, or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office. For online requests, allow time for a permit, letter, swan tag, and bill card to be mailed to you.

Central Flyway – Falconry

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Falconry – Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots

Open Season:

Zone 1 (see map)

Sept 23 – Jan 7

Zone 2 (see map)

Sept 23 – Oct 11

Oct 24 – Jan 19

Falconry – Geese (see “Geese” for zone descriptions)

Open Season:

Zone N (see Geese)

Oct 3 – Jan 10

Jan 16 – Jan 20

Zone S (see Geese)

Oct 3 – Oct 11

Oct 24 – Jan 27

Statewide Closures

Region 2, Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2 11 and 12, T4N R10, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

Region 3, Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Region 3, South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1-1/2 miles, then north ¼ mile, then east ¾ mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W.

Region 3, Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure: Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate 90, then running west along the south boundary of said Interstate to a point near the interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R. A Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southwesterly along the east bank of said canal to the closest point to the Perk's Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal, then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the southeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T1N, R3E, and Section 19 T1N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

Region 4, Freezout Wildlife Management Area (Teton County): SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Wildlife Management Area, T22N, R4W. This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the general waterfowl season. From the opening of the waterfowl season through November 19, 2014, no hunting, access or harassment of wildlife will be allowed except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area. This area will then reopen for all hunting from November 20, 2014 to the end of the season.

Region 4, Missouri River (Cascade County): The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sandbars, beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N, R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

Region 6, McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17 20, 21, T36N, R15E.

Region 6, Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N, R32E; and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R31E; and Section 1, T31N, R31E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T31N, R32E.

Region 6, Sands Lake (Hill County): SW ¼, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

Region 7, Treasure & Rosebud Counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters and sandbars.

**Help Prevent the Spread of
Aquatic Invasive Species**

Inspect • Clean • Dry

Lethality Table

The Lethality Table is intended to help hunters select the most appropriate nontoxic shotshell load for the type of hunting they intend to do. It provides field-tested data collected and analyzed by Tom Roster and the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program. Montana was an active member of this program. The database is comprised only of birds taken with one shot at known ranges under normal hunting conditions. All birds were necropsied and x-rayed from two angles. Hunters can find information in the table on shot size selection, maximum effective range for various pellets on different sized birds, and the pattern density needed to achieve a lethal load and cleanly kill a bird.

It takes a combination of penetration and pattern density to effectively harvest a bird. Testing by Roster showed that pellets need to penetrate at least 2/3 to 3/4 of the way through a bird's body in order to result in a clean kill. The pellets need to strike a lethal area (heart, lungs, spinal column, brain). Also required is a pattern density that, when placed on the front half of a bird, will result in sufficient pellets striking those areas. Developing the shooting skills needed to consistently hit the targeted bird in the front half of the body is a responsibility of an ethical hunter.

©TOM ROSTER'S 2013 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE©

Proven Nontoxic Shot Loads For Waterfowl & Upland Game Birds¹ <i>Load Velocity: 1,225 - 1,600 FPS</i> ACTIVITY	Typical Shooting Range of Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under ACTIVITY At The Distances Listed In The Second Column	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)	NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.86 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and slightly harder than traditional steel pellets.
Large Geese At Long Range Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-65 50-70	Steel BBB to T HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full	
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Medium/Small Geese Long Range Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65 50-65	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full	
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel 2 to BB HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Light Modified, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Large Ducks At Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65 45-65	Steel 2 to 1 HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	Improved Modified, Full Improved Modified, Full	
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	3/4 - 1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds) I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Medium Ducks Over Decoys Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 3 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	115-120 115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds) I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Small Ducks Over Decoys Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 4 HEVI-Shot 6	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	135-145 135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds) Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50 20-50	Steel 3 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	2-3 2-3	90-95 90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds) I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full	
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 7	5/8	1-2	170-190	Imp. Cyl., Light Modified	
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full	

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the waterfowl lethality data bases for certain of the 15 U.S. steel versus lead waterfowl shooting tests run between 1968 & 1982 & one steel-only pheasant shooting test plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP organization. Note: Steel #BBB (.190") and HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") and HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; and steel #2 and HEVI-Shot #4 the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants.

¹These findings are derived from testing 3" 20 gauge; 2 1/4", 3" and 3 1/2" 12 gauge; and 3 1/2" 10 gauge steel loads; plus 3" 20 gauge and 2 1/4" and 3" 12 gauge HEVI-Shot loads.

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Avian Influenza

Avian influenza (AI) is a group of viruses that primarily infects wild birds and domestic poultry and can result in varying levels of disease in birds depending on the subtype. Highly pathogenic or "high path" avian influenza (HPAI) is often fatal in chickens, turkeys, and some wild bird species. The virus can be carried in waterfowl that do not develop signs of disease.

Since December 2014, numerous HPAI cases of various subtypes have been detected in wild and domestic birds in several U.S. states. Montana detected its first case of HPAI (H5N2) in a captive falcon in March 2015, and it has also been detected in a few Montana backyard poultry flocks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the risk to people and dogs from these HPAI infections to be very low. No human cases of these HPAI viruses have been detected in the United States, Canada, or internationally. However, because of the risk to poultry, people and equipment that have been in contact with wild game birds should avoid contact with backyard or commercial poultry flocks. Additional guidance to hunters may be found at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2015/fsc_hpai_hunters.pdf

Common Sense Precautions

- Wear disposable rubber or latex gloves while cleaning game.
- Do not harvest or handle wildlife that is obviously sick or found dead.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after handling game.
- Wash tools and work surfaces used to clean game with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach (one part chlorine bleach to 9 parts water)
- Separate raw meat and anything it touches from cooked or ready-to-eat foods to avoid contamination.
- Even though risk to humans is low, cook game meat thoroughly to an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

2015 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission for hunting in Montana. Authorized hunting hours for the taking of Migratory Game Birds begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset each day of the hunting season. (Do not use times from other sources). The zones below are groups of counties and do not refer to hunting zones.



ZONE 1

INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:55	8:16	7:35	7:16	7:18	5:20	8:00	4:49	8:21	4:58
02	6:57	8:14	7:36	7:14	7:20	5:19	8:01	4:49	8:21	4:59
03	6:58	8:12	7:37	7:12	7:21	5:17	8:03	4:49	8:21	5:00
04	6:59	8:10	7:39	7:10	7:23	5:16	8:04	4:48	8:21	5:01
05	7:01	8:08	7:40	7:08	7:24	5:15	8:05	4:48	8:21	5:02
06	7:02	8:06	7:41	7:06	7:26	5:13	8:06	4:48	8:21	5:03
07	7:03	8:04	7:43	7:04	7:27	5:12	8:07	4:48	8:21	5:04
08	7:04	8:02	7:44	7:02	7:29	5:10	8:08	4:48	8:20	5:05
09	7:06	8:00	7:45	7:00	7:30	5:09	8:09	4:47	8:20	5:06
10	7:07	7:58	7:47	6:59	7:31	5:08	8:10	4:47	8:20	5:08
11	7:08	7:56	7:48	6:57	7:33	5:07	8:11	4:47	8:19	5:09
12	7:10	7:54	7:50	6:55	7:34	5:05	8:12	4:47	8:19	5:10
13	7:11	7:52	7:51	6:53	7:36	5:04	8:13	4:48	8:18	5:11
14	7:12	7:50	7:52	6:51	7:37	5:03	8:14	4:48	8:18	5:13
15	7:14	7:48	7:54	6:49	7:39	5:02	8:14	4:48	8:17	5:14
16	7:15	7:46	7:55	6:47	7:40	5:01	8:15	4:48	8:16	5:15
17	7:16	7:44	7:57	6:46	7:42	5:00	8:16	4:48	8:16	5:17
18	7:17	7:42	7:58	6:44	7:43	4:59	8:16	4:49	8:15	5:18
19	7:19	7:40	7:59	6:42	7:44	4:58	8:17	4:49	8:14	5:19
20	7:20	7:38	8:01	6:40	7:46	4:57	8:18	4:49	8:13	5:21
21	7:21	7:36	8:02	6:38	7:47	4:56	8:18	4:50	8:13	5:22
22	7:23	7:34	8:04	6:37	7:49	4:55	8:19	4:50	8:12	5:24
23	7:24	7:32	8:05	6:35	7:50	4:54	8:19	4:51	8:11	5:25
24	7:25	7:30	8:07	6:33	7:51	4:54	8:20	4:52	8:10	5:27
25	7:27	7:28	8:08	6:32	7:53	4:53	8:20	4:52	8:09	5:28
26	7:28	7:26	8:09	6:30	7:54	4:52	8:20	4:53	8:08	5:30
27	7:29	7:24	8:11	6:28	7:55	4:52	8:21	4:54	8:07	5:31
28	7:31	7:22	8:12	6:27	7:57	4:51	8:21	4:54	8:06	5:33
29	7:32	7:20	8:14	6:25	7:58	4:50	8:21	4:55	8:05	5:34
30	7:33	7:18	8:15	6:23	7:59	4:50	8:21	4:56	8:03	5:36
31			8:17	6:22			8:21	4:57	8:02	5:37

ZONE 2

INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:48	8:07	7:27	7:08	7:10	5:13	7:51	4:43	8:12	4:51
02	6:49	8:06	7:28	7:06	7:11	5:12	7:53	4:42	8:12	4:52
03	6:50	8:04	7:29	7:04	7:13	5:10	7:54	4:42	8:12	4:53
04	6:52	8:02	7:31	7:02	7:14	5:09	7:55	4:41	8:12	4:54
05	6:53	8:00	7:32	7:00	7:16	5:07	7:56	4:41	8:12	4:55
06	6:54	7:58	7:33	6:59	7:17	5:06	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:56
07	6:56	7:56	7:35	6:57	7:18	5:05	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:57
08	6:57	7:54	7:36	6:55	7:20	5:03	7:59	4:41	8:11	4:58
09	6:58	7:52	7:37	6:53	7:21	5:02	8:00	4:41	8:11	5:00
10	6:59	7:50	7:39	6:51	7:23	5:01	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:01
11	7:01	7:48	7:40	6:49	7:24	4:59	8:02	4:41	8:10	5:02
12	7:02	7:46	7:41	6:47	7:26	4:58	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:03
13	7:03	7:44	7:43	6:45	7:27	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:04
14	7:04	7:42	7:44	6:43	7:29	4:56	8:05	4:41	8:09	5:06
15	7:06	7:40	7:46	6:42	7:30	4:55	8:05	4:41	8:08	5:07
16	7:07	7:38	7:47	6:40	7:32	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:08
17	7:08	7:36	7:48	6:38	7:33	4:53	8:07	4:42	8:07	5:10
18	7:10	7:34	7:50	6:36	7:34	4:52	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:11
19	7:11	7:32	7:51	6:34	7:36	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:12
20	7:12	7:30	7:52	6:33	7:37	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:05	5:14
21	7:13	7:28	7:54	6:31	7:39	4:49	8:09	4:43	8:04	5:15
22	7:15	7:26	7:55	6:29	7:40	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:03	5:17
23	7:16	7:24	7:57	6:28	7:41	4:47	8:10	4:44	8:02	5:18
24	7:17	7:22	7:58	6:26	7:43	4:47	8:11	4:45	8:01	5:20
25	7:19	7:20	8:00	6:24	7:44	4:46	8:11	4:45	8:00	5:21
26	7:20	7:18	8:01	6:22	7:45	4:45	8:11	4:46	7:59	5:22
27	7:21	7:16	8:02	6:21	7:46	4:45	8:12	4:47	7:58	5:24
28	7:23	7:14	8:04	6:19	7:48	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:57	5:25
29	7:24	7:12	8:05	6:18	7:49	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:56	5:27
30	7:25	7:10	8:07	6:16	7:50	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:55	5:28
31			8:08	6:15			8:12	4:50	7:54	5:30

ZONE 3

INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:37	7:58	7:16	6:58	7:00	5:02	7:43	4:30	8:04	4:39
02	6:38	7:56	7:18	6:56	7:02	5:00	7:44	4:30	8:04	4:40
03	6:39	7:54	7:19	6:54	7:03	4:59	7:45	4:30	8:04	4:41
04	6:41	7:52	7:20	6:52	7:05	4:57	7:46	4:29	8:04	4:42
05	6:42	7:50	7:22	6:50	7:06	4:56	7:47	4:29	8:03	4:43
06	6:43	7:48	7:23	6:48	7:08	4:54	7:48	4:29	8:03	4:44
07	6:45	7:46	7:24	6:46	7:09	4:53	7:50	4:29	8:03	4:45
08	6:46	7:44	7:26	6:44	7:11	4:52	7:51	4:28	8:03	4:46
09	6:47	7:42	7:27	6:42	7:12	4:50	7:52	4:28	8:02	4:47
10	6:49	7:40	7:29	6:40	7:14	4:49	7:53	4:28	8:02	4:49
11	6:50	7:38	7:30	6:38	7:15	4:48	7:53	4:28	8:02	4:50
12	6:51	7:36	7:31	6:36	7:17	4:47	7:54	4:28	8:01	4:51
13	6:53	7:34	7:33	6:34	7:18	4:45	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:52
14	6:54	7:32	7:34	6:33	7:20	4:44	7:56	4:29	8:00	4:54
15	6:55	7:30	7:36	6:31	7:21	4:43	7:57	4:29	8:00	4:55
16	6:56	7:28	7:37	6:29	7:22	4:42	7:58	4:29	7:59	4:56
17	6:58	7:26	7:38	6:27	7:24	4:41	7:58	4:29	7:58	4:58
18	6:59	7:24	7:40	6:25	7:25	4:40	7:59	4:30	7:57	4:59
19	7:00	7:22	7:41	6:23	7:27	4:39	8:00	4:30	7:57	5:01
20	7:02	7:20	7:43	6:22	7:28	4:38	8:00	4:30	7:56	5:02
21	7:03	7:18	7:44	6:20	7:30	4:37	8:01	4:31	7:55	5:03
22	7:04	7:16	7:46	6:18	7:31	4:36	8:01	4:31	7:54	5:05
23	7:06	7:14	7:47	6:16	7:32	4:35	8:02	4:32	7:53	5:06
24	7:07	7:12	7:49	6:15	7:34	4:35	8:02	4:33	7:52	5:08
25	7:08	7:10	7:50	6:13	7:35	4:34	8:02	4:33	7:51	5:09
26	7:10	7:08	7:52	6:11	7:36	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:50	5:11
27	7:11	7:06	7:53	6:10	7:38	4:33	8:03	4:35	7:49	5:12
28	7:12	7:04	7:54	6:08	7:39	4:32	8:03	4:35	7:48	5:14
29	7:14	7:02	7:56	6:06	7:40	4:31	8:03	4:36	7:47	5:15
30	7:15	7:00	7:57	6:05	7:42	4:31	8:04	4:37	7:46	5:17
31			7:59	6:03			8:04	4:38	7:45	5:18

ZONE 4

INCLUDES: Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux Counties

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:23	7:43	7:02	6:44	6:45	4:49	7:26	4:18	7:47	4:27
02	6:25	7:41	7:03	6:42	6:46	4:47	7:27	4:18	7:47	4:28
03	6:26	7:39	7:04	6:40	6:47	4:46	7:28	4:18	7:47	4:29
04	6:27	7:37	7:06	6:38	6:49	4:44	7:29	4:17	7:47	4:30
05	6:28	7:35	7:07	6:36	6:50	4:43	7:31	4:17	7:47	4:31
06	6:30	7:33	7:08	6:34	6:52	4:42	7:32	4:17	7:46	4:32
07	6:31	7:31	7:10	6:32	6:53	4:40	7:33	4:17	7:46	4:33
08	6:32	7:29	7:11	6:30	6:55	4:39	7:34	4:17	7:46	4:34
09	6:33	7:27	7:12	6:28	6:56	4:38	7:35	4:16	7:46	4:35
10	6:35	7:25	7:14	6:26	6:58	4:36	7:36	4:16	7:45	4:37
11	6:36	7:23	7:15	6:24	6:59	4:35	7:37	4:16	7:45	4:38
12	6:37	7:21	7:16	6:23	7:00	4:34	7:37	4:16	7:45	4:39
13	6:39	7:19	7:18	6:21	7:02	4:33	7:38	4:17	7:44	4:40
14	6:40	7:17	7:19	6:19	7:03	4:32	7:39	4:17	7:43	4:42
15	6:41	7:15	7:20	6:17	7:05	4:31	7:40	4:17	7:43	4:43
16	6:42	7:13	7:22	6:15	7:06	4:30	7:41	4:17	7:42	4:44
17	6:44	7:11	7:23	6:13	7:08	4:29	7:41	4:17	7:42	4:46
18	6:45	7:09	7:25	6:12	7:09	4:28	7:42	4:18	7:41	4:47
19	6:46	7:07	7:26	6:10	7:10	4:27	7:43	4:18	7:40	4:48
20	6:47	7:05	7:27	6:08	7:12	4:26	7:43	4:19	7:39	4:50
21	6:49	7:03	7:29	6:06	7:13	4:25	7:44	4:19	7:39	4:51
22	6:50	7:01	7:30	6:05	7:14	4:24	7:44	4:20	7:38	4:52
23	6:51	6:59	7:32	6:03	7:16	4:23	7:45	4:20	7:37	4:54
24	6:53	6:57	7:33	6:01	7:17	4:23	7:45	4:21	7:36	4:55
25	6:54	6:55	7:35	6:00	7:18	4:22	7:46	4:21	7:35	4:57
26	6:55	6:53	7:36	5:58	7:20	4:21	7:46	4:22	7:34	4:58
27	6:56	6:51	7:37	5:56	7:21	4:21	7:46	4:23	7:33	5:00
28	6:58	6:49	7:39	5:55	7:22	4:20	7:46	4:24	7:32	5:01
29	6:59	6:48	7:40	5:53	7:24	4:19	7:47	4:24	7:31	5:03
30	7:00	6:46	7:42	5:52	7:25	4:19	7:47	4:25	7:30	5:04
31			7:43	5:50			7:47	4:26	7:28	5:06

Contacts

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,
 Helena, MT 59620-0701406-444-2535
 Hunter Education406-444-9948
 Wildlife Division406-444-2612
 Enforcement Division406-444-2452
 Parks Division (Montana State Parks)406-444-3750
 Deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep,
 mountain goat, and all special drawings406-444-2950
 Resident and nonresident licensing for
 fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds,
 black bear, and mountain lion406-444-2535
 Nonresident mailing list for deer and
 elk big game combination licenses
 and regulations406-444-2950
 Hearing Impaired (use Montana
 Relay)7-1-1 or 1-800-253-4091

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters



REGION 1

490 N Meridian Rd
 Kalispell, MT 59901
 (406) 752-5501

REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Rd
 Missoula, MT 59804
 (406) 542-5500

REGION 3

1400 South 19th Ave
 Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
 (406) 994-4042

HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)

930 Custer Ave West
 Helena, MT 59620
 (406) 495-3260

BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)

1820 Meadowlark Ln
 Butte, MT 59701
 (406) 494-1953

REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Rd
 Great Falls, MT 59405
 (406) 454-5840

LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)

215 W Aztec Dr
 PO Box 938
 Lewistown, MT 59457
 (406) 538-4658

REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Dr
 Billings, MT 59105
 (406) 247-2940

REGION 6

54078 US Hwy 2 West
 Glasgow, MT 59230
 (406) 228-3700

HAVRE Area Res Office (HVARO)

2165 Hwy 2 East
 Havre, MT 59501
 (406) 265-6177

REGION 7

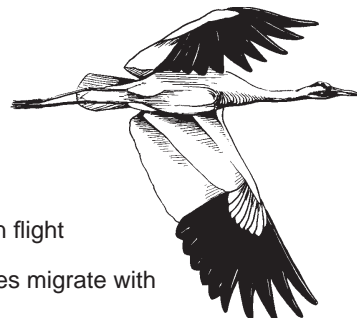
352 I-94 Business Loop
 PO Box 1630
 Miles City, MT 59301
 (406) 234-0900

Please report the band number, location and date
 shot for any banded migratory game bird that
 you harvest to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at
<http://www.reportband.gov>
 or by calling 1-800-327-BAND (1-800-327-2263)

If a Whooping Crane is sighted
 please call – 406-444-2612

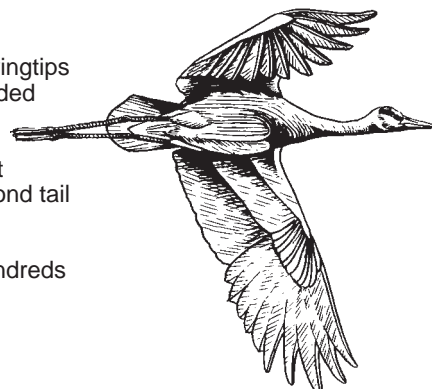
Whooping Cranes

- White with black wingtips
- Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 7 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with sandhill cranes



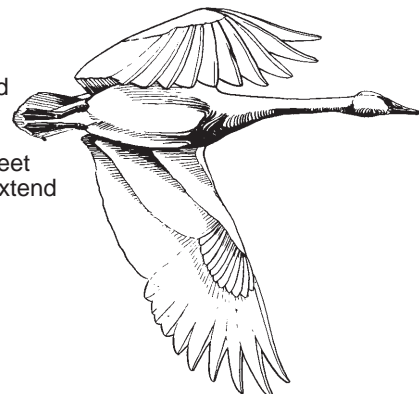
Sandhill Cranes

- Gray, with dark wingtips
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 5 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to hundreds



Swans

- All white
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: over 6 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Flocks of 2 to 10



Snow Geese

- White with black wingtips
- Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet
- Short legs
- Rapid wingbeat
- Flocks of 20 to hundreds



Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana State Agencies

Agriculture
 406-444-3144
 Guides & Outfitters
 406-841-2300
 Livestock
 406-444-2976
 State Lands (DNRC)
 406-444-2074
 Tourism
 406-841-2870

Federal Agencies

US Department of Interior (USDI)
 202-208-3100
 USDI Fish & Wildlife Service
 406-449-5225
 USDA Forest Service
 406-329-3511

Federal Agencies continued

USDI Bureau of Land Management
 406-896-5000
 National Weather Service
 406-329-4840 (Missoula)

Tribal Lands

Blackfeet Reservation
 406-338-7276
 Crow Reservation
 406-638-2179
 Flathead Reservation
 406-883-2888 ext 7200
 Fort Belknap
 406-353-2205
 Fort Peck Reservation
 406-768-5305
 Northern Cheyenne Reservation
 406-477-6526
 Rocky Boy Reservation
 406-395-4207